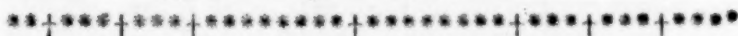


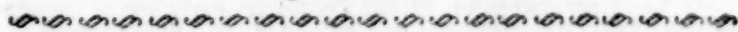


T H E  
**Christian History ;**

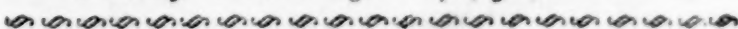
Containing Accounts of the Propagation and Revival  
of Religion in *England Scotland and America.*



To be publish'd *Weekly.*



Saturday APRIL 23. 1743. N<sup>o</sup>. 8.



**H**AVING begun the CHRISTIAN HISTORY with a remarkable Account of the Revival of Religion in the Western Parts of SCOTLAND, which Providence was pleased to send us at the Moment of our entering on this Undertaking, and which we find has given a grateful Entertainment to many of the most serious and judicious on this Side of the Ocean : We shall now turn our Eyes to the Christian History of NEW-ENGLAND. And to prepare the Way, for the less knowing Reader, who ought to be considered as well as the more knowing ; we shall endeavour these two Things ;

1. To give some Account of our original Settlement, with the Principles, Spirit and Power of Religion among the primitive Planters. *And then*

2. The great and lamented Decay of Religion in the succeeding Generations.

I. To give some Account of our original Settlement, with the Principles, Spirit & Power of Religion among the primitive Planters.

*As for our original Settlement, we chuse to represent it in the Words of Others rather than our own: & as we know not a more clear & summary Account thereof, than in some Paragraphs in a Sermon of the Rev. Mr. Prince's, delivered at Cambridge, to the General Assembly of the Province of the Massachusetts, May 27. 1730, being the Anniversary for the Election of HIS MAJESTY'S COUNCIL for the Province, and published by their Order ; to which are made some suitable Additions by the same Hand ; we doubt not but they will be acceptable to the Lovers of the original Design and Settlers of these Plantations. The Sermon was from 1 SAM. II. 6, 7. And the Passages are as follow-----*

H

And

**A**ND how extremely proper is it, upon the close of the **FIRST CENTURY** of our *Settlement* in *this chief Part of the Land*, which will now within a few Weeks expire, To look back to the *Beginning of this remarkable Transaction*; and first commemorate the righteous and signal *Works of GOD* towards us, both in our own Days and in the Days of our Fathers; and then consider the great and special Obligations they have laid upon us, with the Nature of our Carriage towards him for the Time past, and our Interest and Wisdom for the future.

“ Give ear therefore O my People to my Law : incline  
 “ your Ear to the Words of my Mouth ! I will utter Things  
 “ of old, which we have heard and known and our Fathers  
 “ have told us. We will not hide them from their Children ;  
 “ shewing to the Generation and Century coming on, the  
 “ Praises of the LORD, and his Strength, and his wonderful  
 “ WORKS that he has done. For he established a Testimony  
 “ in JACOB, and appointed a Law in ISRAEL, which he  
 “ commanded our Fathers, *that they should make known the*  
 “ WORKS of GOD to their Children : that the Generation  
 “ to come might know them, even the Children which should  
 “ be born, who should arise and declare them to their Chil-  
 “ dren ; that *they* might also set their Hope in GOD, and not  
 “ forget his Works, but keep his Commandments.

And ist, Let us consider *Who* the FATHERS of these Plantations were, and what were their *distinguishing Characters*; that we may give to GOD the Glory of the excellent Honour He was pleas'd to put upon them, and see our own Obligations to Him for deriving us from such eminent Ancestors.

For the Generality of them---They were the near *Descendants* of the first *Reformers* in ENGLAND. They were born of *pious Parents*, who brought them up in a Course of *strict Religion*, and under the Ministry of the most *awakening Preachers* of those Days. Like so many *Timothies*, they were from their Childhood taught to know the HOLY SCRIPTURES, to reverence them as the Inspirations of GOD, as the *only Rule of Faith and Piety*, and to aim at both a *pure scriptural Way of Worship*, and at the *vital Power and Practice of Godliness*: And they continued in the Things they had learned and been assured of, as knowing of whom they had learned them.

Under

Under such Means as these they became inspir'd with a Spirit of Piety, and with a growing Zeal to reform the Worship of GOD to the most beautiful and perfect Model of his own Institutions.

In Points of *Doctrine*, they intirely held with the Church of ENGLAND, their Judgment of *Orthodoxy* being the very same : But they apprehended it to be the sole Prerogative of GOD Himself, and a Glory that he would not give to another, to appoint the Orders of his own House, and the acceptable Ways of his own Worship : That RELIGION is a free Obedience to the known Laws of GOD ; and it is neither in the Power of Men or Angels, to make that Religion which he has not made for himself : That his own Institutions ought not to be set on a Level, mixed or debas'd with the low Devices of Men ; and that it is a plain, full and decisive Rule of his own Injunction--- To the LAW and to the TESTIMONY ; if they speak not according to THIS WORD, it is because there is no Light in them.

This is the pure Religion which our Fathers admir'd and aim'd at, and at nothing in Religion but what was inspir'd of GOD. This and nothing else, they earnestly breath'd and labour'd after ; But for labouring after it, tho' some of the most pious on Earth, they were censured, pursued, seized, imprisoned, fined, and suffered a World of Hardship not now to be nam'd.

But the omniscient and sovereign GOD had espied and chosen this Land for our Fathers, for a Refuge and Heritage for them and their Children ; that here they might set up his Worship and Churches according to the inspir'd Pattern, behold the Beauty of the Divine Appointments in their Scriptural Purity, and leave these inestimable Privileges, which they justly preferred above all Things else in the World, as a blessed Inheritance to their Posterity, as we see at this Day.

And now let us look back and behold in what a remarkable Manner, the GOD of our Fathers was pleas'd to bring them out of the Land of their Sorrows, to this far distant and quiet Recess of the Earth, and put it into their Hands.

First, He sends a smaller Company into a neighbouring State, viz. into HOLLAND in 1610 ; that there they might form themselves into a regular Ecclesiastical Body, till this hidden Part of the Earth shou'd appear to the Light, and yet come under such a discouraging Character, that none but Men inspir'd with a Zeal for Religion would go on to settle it. He disappoints

the successive Endeavours of *others* who came hither only out of *secular Views*, till the Country comes to be given up and abandoned as *not worthy the looking after* by any trading Nation. And then He sends both wasting Diseases among the native Inhabitants, and fierce Contentions among the Survivors, that greatly diminished their Numbers, and made Room for his People.

But O how *horrid and dismal* do these new found Regions appear ! On the Shoars and Rivers, nothing but Sights of wretched, naked and barbarous Nations, Adorers of Devils ---- The Earth covered with hideous Thickets, that require infinite Toils to subdue --- A rigorous Winter for a third Part of the Year --- Not a House to live in --- Not a Christian to see --- None but Heathen of a strange and hard Language to speak with --- Not a Friend within *three Thousand* Miles to help in any Emergency --- and a vast and dangerous Ocean to pass over to *this* !

But the ALMIGHTY inspires with a Zeal and Courage that nothing can daunt, with a Faith and Patience that nothing can brake. He raises up Men of superior Piety, Resolution and Wisdom to lead and animate in the great Design. Such as Mr. CARVER, BRADFORD, and WINSLOW, successive Governors of PLYMOUTH COLONY, who came together with about a *Hundred* Souls in the *first Ship*, which set sail the last Time from PLYMOUTH in ENGLAND on *Sept. 6, 1620*. And on they come, all alone, a small and feeble Number, thro' contrary Storms and boisterous Seas they were never us'd to : tho' twice driven back, a terrible Winter approaching, their Wives and poor piteous Children with them, and like ABRAHAM of old they know not whither. But the LORD is their Guide : He divides the Seas before them : He leads them thro' in Safety : He brings them with Joy to the Border of his designed Sanctuary, to this mountainous Country which his right Hand had purchased. They arrived in CAPE COD Harbour on *Nov. 11*. and at the Place they named *Plymouth* in NEW-ENGLAND, in *Dec.* And the LORD having cast out Multitudes of Heathens before their Arrival, He gives them Favour in the Sight of the rest : He divides his People an Inheritance by Line, and makes them to dwell in Peace in the midst of many powerful Nations, that cou'd have swallow'd them up in a Moment, for above *fifty* Years together.

But a greater COLONY, viz. the MASSACAUSSETTS, is now coming on, to strengthen the *other*, and to fill up the Land from  
Sea

Sea to Sea, and from the River to the Ends of the Earth. And here, Behold and wonder how this is also accomplished.

Great Numbers of *eminent Persons, and others*, of the same *pious and pure* Dispositions in the main with the former, yet continued in the *Churches* of ENGLAND and in Communion with them as long as the higher Powers indulg'd them, with earnest Desires, Labours and Hopes of a farther Reformation of Worship. But a Spirit of severe *Imposition* is now let loose upon these. The *Book of Sports* on the *Holy Sabbath* of GOD must be read by the *Ministers* in the publick Assemblies; and their *Assent* to unscriptural Ways of Worship must be *subscribed* as a necessary Term of their Preaching, even tho' they were solemnly ordain'd in the Church to the Office, requir'd by CHRIST himself to discharge it, and had a Wo laid on them if they desisted to do it. And for preserving their Consciences pure, *they* are driven out of *their Churches*, they are forced from *their Flocks* that lov'd them as the Light of their Eyes, and are more harraissed and worried than the vilest of Men.

And now, at once, to the Surprize of the Nation, in almost every Corner *They* are moved of GOD to look to this Part of the WilderNESS He had been preparing for them. \* Many Persons of shining Figures are raised up to espouse their Cause and venture with them. Their Prince is prevail'd on to grant them a *Charter* of distinguishing Privileges. They hear, they rise, they flow together: *Their Flocks* in great Numbers attend and follow them. *They all* relinquish their delightful Seats and their dearest Friends, they put off their fair Estates, they cast themselves and their Children on the tumultuous Ocean; and nothing can move them, so they may come into a WilderNESS, rude and hideous, to hear the Voice of their Teachers, become a Covenant People of GOD, observe his Laws, set up his Tabernacle, behold his Glory, and leave these Things to their Offspring for ever.

And the LORD preserves them, He makes the Depths of the Sea a Way for the Ransomed to pass over: He brings them in Thousands to these peaceful Shoars: And here, *They* that knew not each other before, salute and embrace with Joy: He unites them in the most lovely Agreement to profess and serve Him: They publickly and solemnly enter into *Covenant* with Him, to love and obey Him, to make his *Doctrines* the only Rule of Faith, and his *Institutions* the only Rule of *Worship*: And with united Joy they sing to the LORD---“Thou in thy  
“Mercy



" Mercy hast led forth the People which Thou hast redeemed :  
 " Thou hast guided them in thy Strength to thy Holy Habitation :  
 " Thou hast brought them in and planted them in the  
 " Mountain of thine Inheritance, in the Place O LORD  
 " which Thou hast made for Thee to dwell in, in the Sanctuary  
 " which thy Hands have established : and the LORD  
 " shall reign for ever and ever.

On Saturday *June 12. 1630.* Arrived in *Salem-River*, the *Arabella*, with Governour WINTHROP and some of his Assistants, bringing the Charter of the MASSACHUSETTS Colony, and therewith the Government transferred hither : The other *Ten Ships* of the Fleet with Deputy Governour DUDLEY and the other Assistants arriv'd in *Salem* and *Charles Rivers* before *July 11.* In the same Month the Governour, Deputy Governour and Assistants, with the Rev. and famous Mr. *Wilson* and *Philips*, came with their Goods to *Charlestown* : where the first Court of Assistants was held on *Aug. 23.* the same Year, And the Number of People which arrived this Summer was about *Fifteen Hundred.*

At first indeed, they met with very grievous Trials, and endur'd a World of *Hardship* and *Affliction* : For tho' the LORD had thus redeem'd and gather'd them out of other Lands, and brought them hither ; yet here they had only *solitary Ways* and *Thickets* to wander through, and no Towns or Houses to receive or cover them. Those who before had liv'd in the midst of Plenty and Delights, now greatly suffer for want of Lodging, Bread, and Defence from Weather. Hungry and thirsty, their Souls fainted in them. They are wet with the Showers of the Mountains, and embrace the Rocks for Shelter. They quickly sink their worldly Substance ; they are forc'd to give their pleasant Things for Meat to relieve the Soul ; and many of their Wives and Children expire about them. --- But they endure with Patience, and cry to GOD, and He sends Relief. He satisfies their longing Souls and filleth them with Goodness. He builds them Houses and Towns for Habitation ; He prepares them Fields for planting, and He turns the Defart into a fruitful Land. He increas'd their Cattle ; and He blest'd their Persons, so that they multiplied greatly, and He made them Families and Churches round about.

In *June 1636*, the Reverend and renowned Mr. *Hooker*, with about a *Hundred* in Company went up from the *Massachusetts*, began the Town of *Hartford*, and laid the Foundation  
 of

of CONNECTICUT-COLONY. In the *following Year*, the Rev. and famous Mr. *Davenport*, with the honoured Mr. *Theophilus Eaton*, began the Town of *New-Haven*, and laid the Foundation of NEW-HAVEN COLONY. And in 1639, a Church was gathered at *Hampton*; which was the first in the Province of NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

It must be here observed, that tho' the *Generality* both of the first *Leaders, Heads of Families & Freemen*, were Persons of *noted Piety*; yet there were *great Numbers*, not only of the *younger Sort*, both of *Children and Servants*, but also of *elder* of every Age; who came over both in the Year 1630 and the *Ten* following Years, that came hither only under the *common Impressions* of a *pious Ministry or Education*, or the religious Influence of their *Friends, or Heads of Families* they belong'd to: And who were therefore *fit Materials* for the *numerous Conversions* which quickly followed, under the lively, searching and awakening Preaching of the *primitive Ministers*.

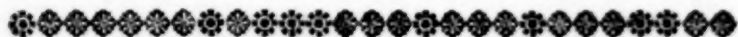
And now the WILDERNESS and the solitary Place is glad for them: The Desert rejoices and blossoms as a Rose; it blossoms abundantly with Peace and Righteousness; it rejoices with Joy and Singing. The Glory of *Lebanon* is given to it, the Excellency of *Carmel and Sharon*; they see the Glory of the LORD and the Excellency of our GOD. The Waters of the Divine Influence break out in the Wilderness, and the Streams in the Desert: The parched Ground becomes a Pool; and the thirsty Land, Springs of Water: In the Habitations of Dragons where they lay, there grows up the Grass; and an High Way now is there, which is call'd the *Way of Holiness*, over which the Unclean do not pass, and the wayfaring Men do not err therein.

And to the great Glory of GOD be it spoken ---- There never was, perhaps, before seen such a Body of pious People together on the Face of the Earth. For those who came over first, came hither for the Sake of RELIGION, and for that pure Religion which was entirely hated by the Loose and Profane of the World. Their *Civil and Ecclesiastical LEADERS* were exemplary Patterns of Piety: They encouraged only the *Virtuous* to come with and follow them: They were so strict on the *Vicious* both in the Church and State, that the Incurable could not endure to live in the Country, and went back again. Profane Swearers and Drunkards are not known in the Land. And it quickly grew so famous for Religion abroad,

abroad, that scarce any other but those who lik'd it, came over for many Years after. And indeed such vast Numbers were coming, that the Crown was obliged to stop them, or a great Part of the Nation had soon emptied it self into these *American Regions*.

And for those who were here---The SPIRIT from on high is powred upon them, and the WILDERNESS becomes a fruitful Field: *Judgment* and *Righteousness* continue in it, and the Effect of Righteousness is *Peace*. While a cruel *War* rages in the Kingdom they left, lays it waste, and drowns it in Blood; the People here dwell in peaceable Habitations, in sure Dwellings, in quiet resting Places. And the LORD enlarges the Bounds of their Tents: He stretches forth the Curtains of their Habitations; He makes them to break forth on the Right Hand and on the Left; He makes their Seed to inherit the Lands of the Gentiles, the desolate Places to be inhabited. In *Twenty seven Years* from the first Plantation, there were *Forty three CHURCHES* in joint Communion with one another. And in *Twenty seven Years* more, there appear above *Fourscore* English CHURCHES of CHRIST, composed only of known, pious and faithful Professors, dispersed through the Wilderness; viz. Twelve or Thirteen in *Plymouth Colony*, Forty-seven in the *Massachusetts Colony* and Province of *New-Hampshire*, Nineteen in *Connecticut*, Three in *Long-Island*, and One at *Marthas Vineyard*.

[Thus have we given a general View of the *original Settlers* and *Settlements* of this *Christian Country*. We propose to give our Readers some *remarkable Extracts* concerning the *Power* and *Prevalence* of *Religion* among them from some of our most famous *Writers*, who were *Eye-Witnesses* thereof, in the *following Paper*.]



B O S T O N: N. E. Printed for *Thomas Prince*, Junr. A. B. at two *Shillings* new Tenor per Quarter uncovered, and *six Pence* more new Tenor per Quarter cover'd, seal'd & directed, exclusive of Postage. Of whom may be had all the Numbers from the Beginning.

